Tubewells out of State Plan and 448 additional Tubewells to be installed out of assistance under Calamity Relief Fund.

Bio-Mass and Gobar Gas Plants

4842. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Bio-Mass and Gobar Gas Plants are powerful instruments towards Rural Development Programme;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the utility of biomass resources and biogas plants for rural development, the Government have launched two national level programmes namely, (i) National Biomass Gasifier Programme and (ii) National Project for Biogas Development in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Population living below poverty line

4843. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as pe'r the latest report on Rural Development, the percentage of population living below the poverty line was 37.27 per cent in 1993-94;"

(b) whether out of the 32 States mentioned, in 12 Stales' percentage of poverty is about 45 per cent; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have been taken to reduce the all India poverty percentage, especially in the 12 States referred to above.'

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) to (c) As per the Planning Commission's estimate, the percentage of rural population living below poverty line was 37.27 in 1993-94. According to this estimate, in 10 States and one Union Territory (UT), about 45% of the rural population were living below the poverty line. The Ministery of Rural Development has been implementing a number of programmes aimed at

alleviating the poverty in rural areas including those of the 10 States and one UT mentioned above. The major anti-poverty programmes are — Swarnjayanti Gram Swa-rozgar Yojana (SGSY) which is for providing self-employment opportunities, Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS) which is for wage employment opportunities, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) which has wage employment as its secondary objective and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) which provides housing facility to rural poor.

Construction of houses under IAY in Rajasthan and Orissa

4844. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made and target fixed for the construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana during 2000- 2001 (State-wise) till date particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa States:

(b) whether sufficient funds have been earmarked during the current financial year for this purpose to Rajasthan and Orissa as compared to other States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are satisfied with the place of construction of these houses particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(e) if not, what steps Government have taken till date in this regard to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The allocation made and target fixed under Indira Awaas Yojana during 2000-2001 State-wise including for Rajasthan and Orissa is given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below). Allocation under Indira Awaas Yojana is made as per the approved allocation criteria. This allocation criteria comparises of two elements: poverty ratio and housing shortage, each of which is given equal weightage. The amount of funds allocated to each State/UT is subject to availability of funds.

(d) and (e) As per a Quick Study done by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission in the year 1993 in several States (including Rajasthan and Orissa) there was 84% level of satisfaction with Indira Awas Yojana houses.